

# My Japan

## Students introduce their Japan

It is always fascinating to know what people would like to tell you about their own country. For an interesting look at how some young Japanese people feel about their own country, granted the more positive side, the website **My Japan** makes for interesting browsing.

### Japan not in the guidebooks

The My Japan contest was organised by a group of university students called adoir and was officially supported by the Japan Tourist Agency. The aim was to have students creatively express 'Japan' or rather their Japan—in other words the Japan that is missing from most guidebooks, but that the students feel others should know about. The contest organisers were looking for fresh and original perspectives.

The entries could be in the form of short 30-second films or 'interactive applications'. The works that qualified have been made available online in 6 languages—English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Esperanto and Japanese—and there are 50 films and 26 interactive web media that can be explored on the My Japan site.

'My Service', 'Peaceful Japan', 'Talk in the Nude', 'Shoe Placing Synthesis. Final', 'Watashi and Tawashi: I and scrub brushes', and 'Everything is accurate' are just some of the film titles. Many of the entries focussed on the Japanese sense of kindness and politeness, attention to detail, peace and safety. The custom of relaxing in a nice, hot bath was well represented, and food culture and the richness of Japanese onomatopoeic words also featured strongly.

There is a wide range of styles to enjoy, and being short snippets, it is easy to have a quick dip into the site. If you end up clicking on more films or activities than you were planning to, why not revive your computer's mouse by treating it to its own Japanese bath—see the activity called 'For my heavy body'.

<http://my-jpn.com>

## Letters to Editor

The Editor of *Japan Reports* welcomes any comments and suggestions you may have.

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# Notes to teachers

## 28<sup>th</sup> Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Thank you!

The Consulate would like to thank all those teachers who supported this year's contest. We hope that students learnt some new things about Japan through the research they did and the process of writing itself.

The state-level judging is now well underway. The results of the national-level judging will be announced in December 2010 on the Embassy of Japan in Canberra's website: [www.au.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.au.emb-japan.go.jp).

And, good luck to students who have entered!

### New magazine

The magazine *Nipponia* is no longer being distributed by the Consulate. A new publication called *Niponica* will replace it. The first issue is expected to be distributed to libraries, universities and schools later this year.

Archived issues of *Nipponia* are still available online via Web Japan.



### Web Japan

This site is regularly updated and it's worthwhile subscribing to the site's 'What's New' mail service, letting you know when new content has been added to the site.

You can view up-to-date Tokyo street fashion or read about recent developments in anime on the **Trends in Japan** website, part of Web Japan.

**Japan Fact Sheets** give clear and authoritative information about aspects of Japanese society, from government, social welfare and education, through geography and the regions of Japan, to sports and martial arts. There are currently 45 fact sheets available

**Japan Video Topics** offers streamed short clips. The most recent videos posted at the end of September included topics as varied as *Keeping Frozen Cells Alive*, *The Dinosaurs of Katsuyama*, *Edo Period Puppet Theatre* and *Cyber Power Suits*. Films are generally between 3 and 5 minutes long making them a useful length to introduce topics to students.

**Kids Web Japan's** What's Cool page is regularly updated and don't forget that Kids Web is available in Japanese language too.

<http://web-japan.org>